

Headed for the Antarctic for New Year's

Even King Olaf of Norway was on hand for the sailing of the ship "Andenes", which is carrying 90 polar specialists selected by open competition. The ship recently set sail for the sixth continent. The main task of the expedition will be to establish the first permanent Norwegian research station in the Antarctic 200 kilometers from the coast. The station has been named "Troll" after the cunning and mischievous fairy tale creatures of Scandinavian legend.

The goal of the researchers, however, is quite serious. Scientists from the "country of fjords" are seriously concerned about assertions by American experts that an expected global climatic warming will be most clearly felt in the Northern Hemisphere. This will lead to an even greater rise there in the level of the world's oceans than in other parts of the planet. For this reason, researchers propose to drill a 500-meter borehole in the ice to obtain data which will permit comparisons to be made of the thawing processes in the ice caps of the North and South poles.

The year now coming to an end has been marked by steadily increasing interest in the distant Antarctic on the part of other northern European countries as well.

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